

from the

# REGIONS BEYOND

Bruce & Becky McDonald

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**REGIONS BEYOND:** This month we would like to give you a pictorial perspective on our recent Latvia ministry trip. For the first time in twelve years, our daughter Amanda visited Latvia and was able to visit the apartment complex we lived in, many friends and the inevitable shopping experience. The churches in Latvia are growing, including the three churches highlighted below. Additionally, the former “greenhouse” church is now meeting in their new church building.

New Jurmala church building and the greenhouse church are at right. Bruce is with Pastors Vasily Filimonov of Riga and Yuri Linde from Daugavpils in the far right photo.



**Jurmala Church:** Formerly a Communist party resort, Jurmala has a population of 90,000. Communist repression and control of churches was more severe in Latvia than other Baltic states due to the large military presence and prevalence of Russian Communist settlers.



The two photos at right depict the apartment complex we lived in (3rd floor) and Becky with Natasha, who was one of our neighbors.



**Jelgava Church:** Sixteen years ago we moved to what was then the Soviet Union and lived in the city of Jelgava. Page 2 of this newsletter provides a pictorial tour of our apartment complex and some of the shopping experience that has changed little. One early memory is going to the 7-Eleven ... at any given time the grocery stores had between seven and eleven items.



**Winter of 1990** ... People walked miles in a blizzard to attend the first Christian meeting in Kalciums. The photo at right is downtown and across from the church.



**Kalciums Church:** In this former Soviet penal colony, we started what remains the only church in the city. Pictured in far left photo are: Marge Russi, Galina Filimov, Tanya Bisarab, Becky McDonald & Amanda McDonald.

“Our desire is to preach the gospel in the regions beyond” 2 Corinthians 10:16